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Title: Need to complete the work of gauge conversion in Theni district, tamil Nadu.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (THENI): I want to speak in my mother tongue, Tamil.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Interpreter is not available.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Okay I will speak in Englih. Sir, in 2009, Bodi metre gauge conversion project has been taken up. So far, it has not been completed. In the first year, 2010-11, they have given Rs. 20 crore; in 2011-12 they have given Rs. 15 crore; in 2012-13 they have given only Rs. 3 crore. People are accusing me like anything. All the 75-kilometre area is full of bushes. Now, every year, people are transporting 25 lakh tonnes of tea, cardamom, pulses, food grains and all other things. These people are suffering a lot. Highway problems are there. A lot of people, who are taking advantage of the situation, are threatening the small farmers and are taking money from them. So, my request is that this gauge conversion project should be taken up at once and immediate solution should be given to be people of Theni district. It is a long-pending matter.

Sir, two bridges have to be constructed. They have not yet been constructed so far. It had already been announced that they would construct the over bridges in Theni as well as in the Collectorate area. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You talk about the railway line.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Sir, I am talking about the railway line. There is a lot of traffic in Theni. I had made this request earlier also. The hon. Railway Minister also had sent a team to inspect that. So, my request is that the over bridges should be constructed and also the gauge conversion should be taken up and completed in time.